

1 THE HONORABLE JOHN H. CHUN
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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

7 AVELARDO RIVERA and YASMINE
8 ROMERO, individually and on behalf of all
9 others similarly situated,

10 *Plaintiffs,*

11 *v.*

12 AMAZON WEB SERVICES, INC., a
13 Delaware corporation,

14 *Defendant.*

15 Case No. 2:22-cv-00269-JHC

16 SECOND AMENDED CLASS ACTION
17 COMPLAINT

18 JURY DEMAND

19 Plaintiffs Avelardo Rivera and Yasmine Romero (“Plaintiffs”) bring this Second
20 Amended Class Action Complaint and Demand for Jury Trial against Defendant Amazon Web
21 Services, Inc. (“AWS”) to put a stop to its surreptitious collection, use, and storage of Plaintiffs’
22 and the proposed Class’s biometric data. Plaintiffs allege as follows upon personal knowledge as
23 to themselves and their own acts and experiences, and, as to all other matters, upon information
24 and belief.

25 **NATURE OF THE ACTION**

26 1. Amazon.com, Inc. (“Amazon.com”) is the world’s largest online retailer and one
27 of the largest providers of cloud computing services, called Amazon Web Services (“AWS”).

2. According to Amazon.com, AWS is the world’s most comprehensive and broadly
28 adopted cloud platform, offering its customers over 200 cloud-based services from data centers
29 globally. Millions of customers—from startups to the largest enterprises—use AWS every day.

3. One of AWS’s services is a facial recognition program called Amazon

Rekognition. Rekognition uses machine vision and algorithmic classification techniques to map human facial geometry and analyze the resulting data to, for example, check whether two photographs depict the same individual.

4. Thousands of organizations use Amazon Rekognition to identify individuals using face recognition. In such circumstances, individuals' facial geometry is extracted by AWS and is stored not only by its customers on the cloud, but also by AWS on AWS's own servers.

5. However, because Rekognition is a behind-the-scenes service for businesses, consumers are largely unaware that when they use their favorite mobile app or online service to verify their identities, AWS is actually collecting and storing their biometric data.

6. Through these practices, AWS not only disregards individuals' privacy rights; it also violates the Biometric Information Privacy Act, 740 ILCS 14/1, *et seq.* ("BIPA"), which was specifically designed to protect Illinois residents from practices like Amazon's.

7. Accordingly, this Complaint seeks an order (i) declaring that AWS's conduct violates the BIPA; (ii) requiring AWS to cease the unlawful activities discussed herein; and (iii) awarding statutory damages to Plaintiffs and the proposed Class (defined below).

PARTIES

8. Plaintiff Avelardo Rivera is a citizen and resident of the State of Illinois and has an intent to remain there, and is therefore a domiciliary of Illinois.

9. Plaintiff Yasmine Romero is a citizen and resident of the State of Illinois and has an intent to remain there, and is therefore a domiciliary of Illinois.

10. Defendant Amazon Web Services, Inc. is a Delaware corporation with its headquarters in Seattle, Washington. Amazon Web Services, Inc. is a subsidiary of Amazon.com, Inc. (Amazon Web Services, Inc. and Amazon.com, Inc. are collectively referred to as "Amazon," unless otherwise specified).

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

11. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2) because (a) at least one member of the Class is a citizen of a state different from Defendant, (b) the

1 amount in controversy exceeds \$5,000,000, exclusive of interests and costs, and (c) none of the
2 exceptions under that subsection apply to this action.

3 12. The Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because Defendant is licensed
4 to conduct business in this District and maintains its headquarters and principal place of business
5 in this District.

6 13. Venue is proper in this District under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) because Defendant is
7 licensed to conduct business in this District and its headquarters and principal place of business
8 are maintained in this District.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

10 || I. The Use of Biometrics and Consumer Privacy.

11 14. “Biometrics” refer to technologies used to identify an individual based on unique
12 physical characteristics. Common biometric identifiers include retina or iris scans, fingerprints,
13 voiceprints, or hand or face geometry scans.

14 15. One of the most prevalent uses of biometrics is facial recognition technology,
15 which works by scanning an image for human faces, extracting facial feature data from a
16 photograph or image of a human face, generating a “faceprint” from the image through the use of
17 facial recognition algorithms, and then comparing the resultant faceprint to other faceprints
18 stored in a faceprint database. If a database match is found, a person may be identified.

16. Unlike other identifiers such as Social Security or credit card numbers, which can
be changed if compromised or stolen, biometric identifiers linked to a specific voice or face
cannot. These unique and permanent biometric identifiers, once exposed, leave victims with no
means to prevent identity theft and unauthorized tracking. *See also* 740 ILCS 14/5(c).

23 || II. Illinois's Biometric Information Privacy Act.

24 17. Recognizing the “very serious need [for] protections for the citizens of Illinois
25 when it [came to their] biometric information,” the Illinois Legislature enacted BIPA in 2008.
26 *See* Illinois House Transcript, 2008 Reg. Sess. No. 276; 740 ILCS 14/5.

27 18. The BIPA is an informed consent statute which achieves its goal by making it

1 unlawful for a company to, among other things, “collect, capture, purchase, receive through
 2 trade, or otherwise obtain a person’s or a customer’s biometric identifiers or biometric
 3 information, unless it first:

4 (1) informs the subject . . . in writing that a biometric identifier or biometric
 5 information is being collected or stored;
 6 (2) informs the subject . . . in writing of the specific purpose and length of term for
 7 which a biometric identifier or biometric information is being collected, stored, and
 8 used; and
 9 (3) receives a written release executed by the subject of the biometric identifier or
 10 biometric information.”

11 740 ILCS 14/15(b).

12 19. The BIPA also establishes standards for how companies must handle Illinois
 13 consumers’ biometric identifiers and biometric information. *See, e.g.*, 740 ILCS 14/15(a), (c)–
 14 (d). For instance, the BIPA requires companies to develop and comply with a written policy—
 15 made available to the public—establishing a retention schedule and guidelines for permanently
 16 destroying biometric identifiers and biometric information when the initial purpose for collecting
 17 such identifiers or information has been satisfied or within three years of the individual’s last
 18 interaction with the company, whichever occurs first. 740 ILCS 14/15(a).

19 20. The BIPA also prohibits private entities from disclosing a person’s or customer’s
 20 biometric identifier or biometric information to third parties without first obtaining consent for
 21 that disclosure, 740 ILCS 14/15(d)(1), and further prohibits selling, leasing, trading, or otherwise
 22 profiting from a person’s biometric identifiers or biometric information, 740 ILCS 14/15(c).

23 21. “Biometric identifiers” include retina and iris scans, voiceprints, scans of hand
 24 and fingerprints, and—most importantly here—face geometry. *See* 740 ILCS 14/10. “Biometric
 25 information” is separately defined to include any information based on an individual’s biometric
 26 identifier that is used to identify an individual. *See id.*

27 22. The BIPA’s narrowly tailored provisions place no absolute bar on the collection,
 28 sending, transmitting, or storing of biometric data. For example, the BIPA does not limit what

1 kinds of biometric data may be collected, sent, transmitted, or stored. Nor does the BIPA limit to
 2 whom biometric data may be sent or transmitted, or by whom it may be stored. The BIPA simply
 3 mandates that entities wishing to engage in that conduct must make proper disclosures,
 4 implement certain reasonable safeguards, and procure a user's consent before collecting
 5 biometric data.

6 **III. AWS Violates the BIPA.**

7 23. Despite the BIPA being in force for over a decade, AWS operates a major
 8 biometric-based facial recognition platform in violation of the BIPA's simple requirements.

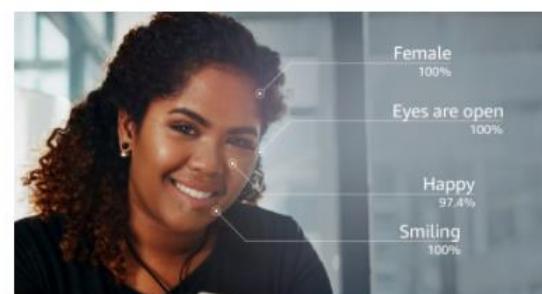
9 24. Amazon Rekognition is a cloud-based service that, according to Amazon, makes
 10 it easy for its customers—from startups to leading corporations—to add image and video
 11 analysis, all performed by AWS through its Rekognition platform, to their applications, products,
 12 and services. To use its service, an AWS customer just needs to provide AWS an image or video,
 13 and then Rekognition can identify objects, people, text, scenes, and activities within the images
 14 or video. Amazon even boasts that Rekognition provides facial analysis, face comparison, and
 15 face search capabilities, including detecting, analyzing, and comparing faces for a wide variety
 16 of use cases, including user verification, cataloging, and people counting. *See Figures 1 and 2*
 17 below, showing screenshots from Amazon's AWS marketing materials.



23 **Face compare and search**

24 Determine the similarity of a face against another
 25 picture or from your private image repository.

26 [Learn more »](#)



23 **Face detection and analysis**

24 Detect faces appearing in images and videos and
 25 recognize attributes such as open eyes, glasses, and
 facial hair for each.

26 [Learn more »](#)

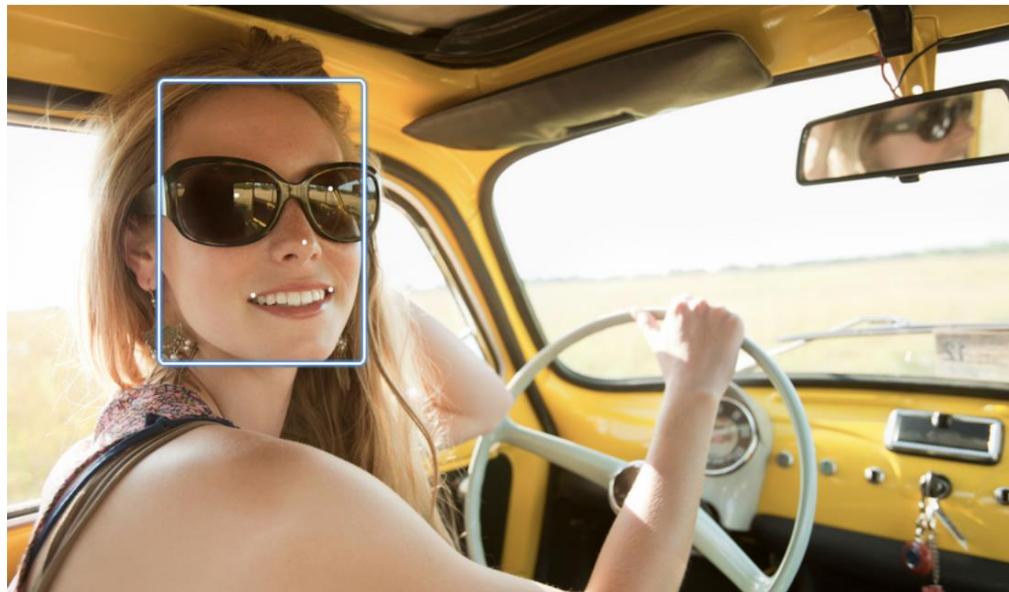
27 **(Figure 1.)**

Detecting and analyzing faces

[PDF](#) | [RSS](#)

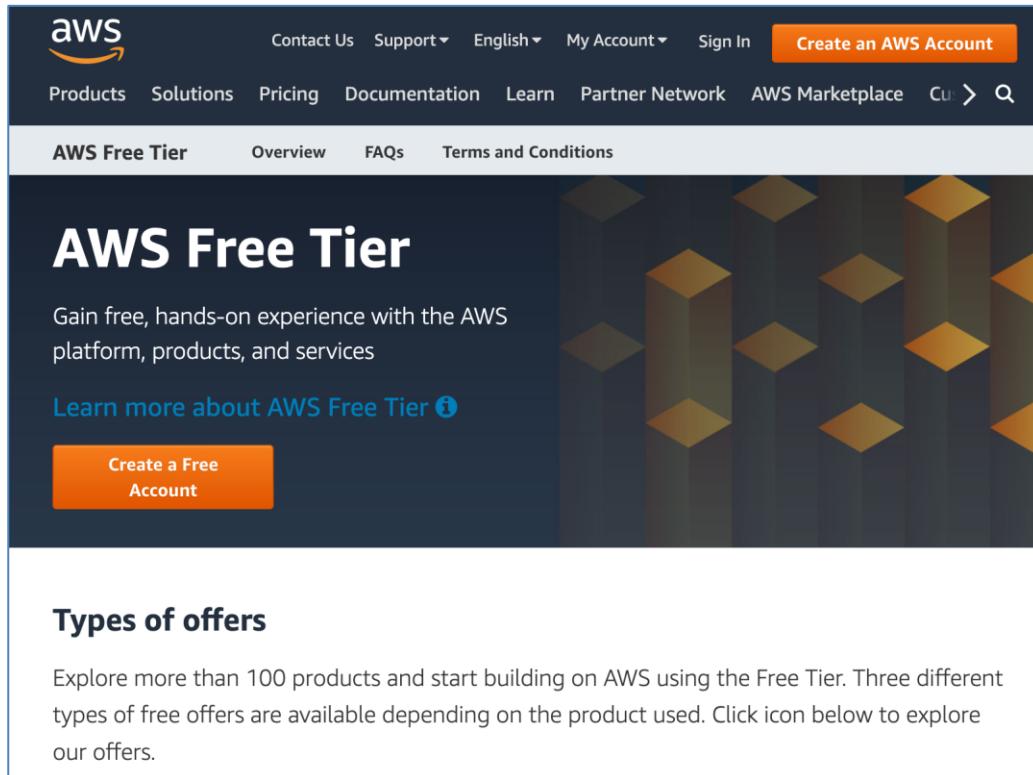
Amazon Rekognition can detect faces in images and videos. This section covers non-storage operations for analyzing faces. With Amazon Rekognition, you can get information about where faces are detected in an image or video, facial landmarks such as the position of eyes, and detected emotions (for example, appearing happy or sad). You can also compare a face in an image with faces detected in another image.

When you provide an image that contains a face, Amazon Rekognition detects the face in the image, analyzes the facial attributes of the face, and then returns a percent confidence score for the face and the facial attributes that are detected in the image.



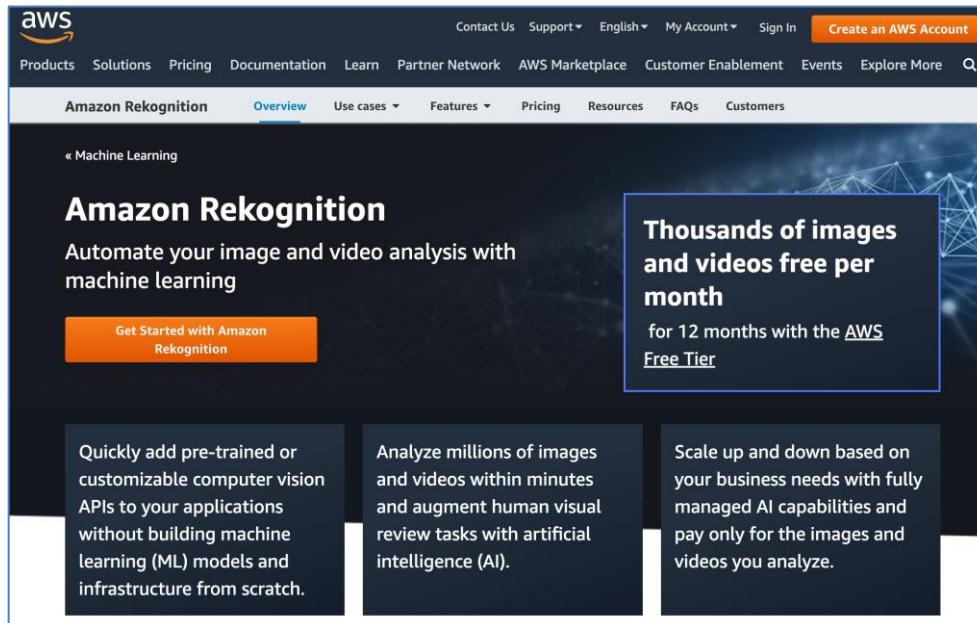
(Figure 2.)

25. Using Amazon Rekognition to perform facial recognition is simple. Anyone seeking to perform facial recognition using Rekognition will first need to sign up for an AWS account. *See Figure 3, showing a screenshot of Amazon's AWS website.*



(Figure 3.)

26. An AWS customer could then register for and use Rekognition. *See Figure 4,* showing a screenshot of the Rekognition homepage.



(Figure 4.)

1 27. After getting “started” with an Amazon Rekognition account, an AWS customer
 2 will need to install and configure AWS’s Command Line Interface (“CLI”) and Software
 3 Development Kit (“SDK”), which are programming toolkits that allow customers to manage and
 4 use their AWS services.

5 28. Once the AWS CLI and SDKs are set up and configured, an AWS customer can
 6 start interacting with and using Rekognition.

7 29. To start, a typical AWS customer will configure their applications or services to
 8 upload images to AWS’s cloud-based storage solution, called “S3” or “S3 buckets” (a “bucket”
 9 typically refers to a discrete instance of an S3 cloud storage container).

10 30. Next, the AWS customer would run a command within the Amazon API (or
 11 Application Programming Interface) interface called “index-faces” on the images it wishes to
 12 compare. This command instructs Rekognition to detect and scan faces in images. Rekognition
 13 then accesses the relevant images and uses its machine vision algorithms to extract the facial
 14 geometry of the individuals pictured into a feature vector. These feature vectors include precise
 15 coordinates describing essential facial landmarks such as the nose, corners of the mouth, eyes,
 16 chin, pupils, and jawline, among others.

17 31. The feature vectors of facial geometry, as well as higher-order details such as
 18 whether a person is smiling, sad, or disgusted, or is wearing eyeglasses or sunglasses, are then
 19 stored in an AWS backend database called a Rekognition “collection.” *See Figure 5 below,*
 20 showing a screenshot of the Rekognition CLI listing a stored face from a “collection.”

21
 22
 23
 24
 25
 26
 27

```

1   "Faces": [
2     {
3       "FaceId": "30c8f848-cf8a-46b6-8a69-f135e35f0e91",
4       "BoundingBox": {
5         "Width": 0.508074998555908,
6         "Height": 0.4542959928512573,
7         "Left": 0.24040700495243073,
8         "Top": 0.22210200130939484
9       },
10      "ImageId": "74947044-80e8-36e5-9138-55ac21c5c2a2",
11      "ExternalImageId": "Shawn",
12      "Confidence": 99.99500274658203
13    }
14  ],
15  "FaceModelVersion": "5.0"
16 }

```

(Figure 5.)

32. Finally, the AWS customer would then use Rekognition to run a face matching API command. For example, the customer could take the unique “FaceId” that index-faces assigned to a photo of a government identification card and search a collection to see if a matching self-portrait exists. If a match is found, the unique ID of that image is returned along with some data about the face, as well as a “Similarity” score, which is a confidence measurement to indicate how strongly Rekognition believes these faces match. *See Figure 6*, showing a screenshot of the Rekognition CLI.

```

1   {
2     "SearchedFaceId": "30c8f848-cf8a-46b6-8a69-f135e35f0e91",
3     "FaceMatches": [
4       {
5         "Similarity": 99.99944305419922,
6         "Face": {
7           "FaceId": "5da9b088-5109-49d7-be85-001d2610417c",
8           "BoundingBox": {
9             "Width": 0.18031999468803406,
10            "Height": 0.2648650109767914,
11            "Left": 0.27408599853515625,
12            "Top": 0.12426400184631348
13          },
14          "ImageId": "01fc3c24-dbde-3538-acee-2df042ca10a3",
15          "ExternalImageId": "Shawn2",
16          "Confidence": 99.99250030517578
17        }
18      }
19    ],
20    "FaceModelVersion": "5.0"
21  }

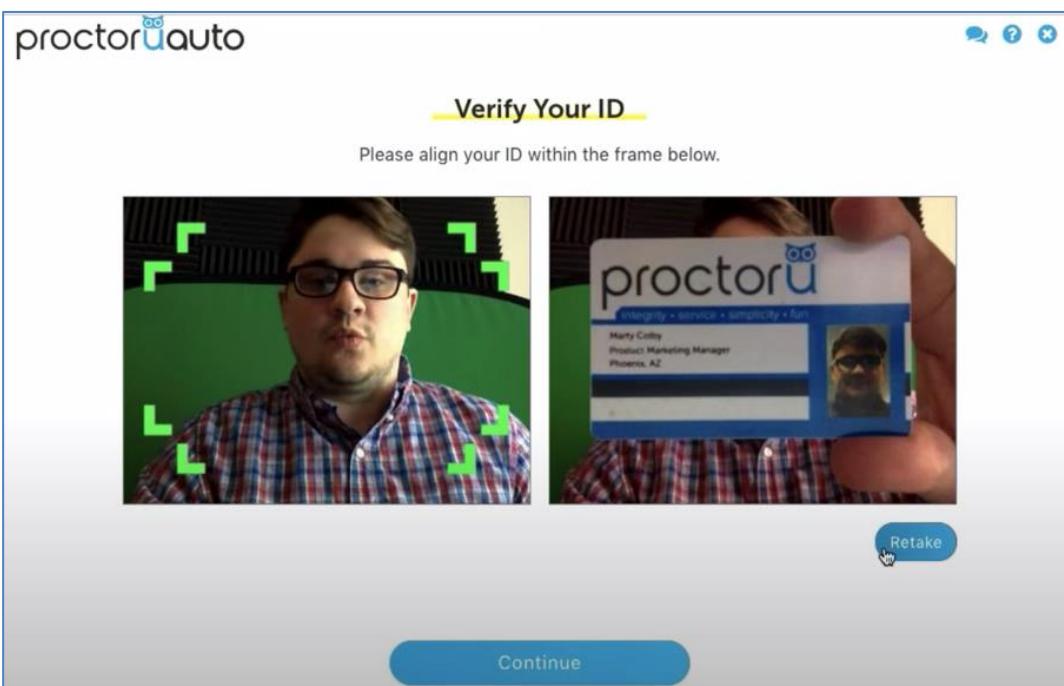
```

(Figure 6.)

1 33. All of this time, the AWS customer would be communicating with AWS's
 2 servers, where this information is stored and processed.

3 34. One such company that uses Rekognition is ProctorU Inc., which develops and
 4 licenses online test proctoring software for use by students and educational facilities.

5 35. When a student takes a test using ProctorU's proctoring software, ProctorU
 6 requires students to show their faces and their photo IDs on camera to help verify their identities.
 7 *See Figure 7, showing a screenshot of ProctorU's software.*



19 (**Figure 7.**)

20 36. Unbeknownst to students in this example, when they upload their images to
 21 ProctorU, they are also uploading their photos to ProctorU's cloud-service provider, AWS. AWS
 22 then uses Rekognition to perform facial recognition on the student's face and provided
 23 identification card to identify the student. In other words, when students sign in to ProctorU to
 24 take a test, their biometric data is also collected by AWS in order to identify the student for
 25 ProctorU.
 26
 27

1 37. By and through the actions detailed above, AWS not only disregards consumers'
 2 privacy rights, but it also violates their statutorily protected rights to control the collection, use,
 3 and storage of their sensitive biometric data.

4 **IV. Plaintiff Rivera's Experience.**

5 38. In 2019 and 2020, Plaintiff Avelardo Rivera was a student at the University of
 6 Illinois Urbana-Champaign ("UIUC"), located in Illinois.

7 39. Plaintiff Rivera took multiple tests at UIUC between 2019 and 2020, while
 8 physically present in Illinois, each requiring the use of ProctorU's software.

9 40. During that time, Plaintiff Rivera was required to submit his image as well as an
 10 image of a valid identification document in order to be identified.

11 41. Unbeknownst to Rivera, ProctorU used Amazon Rekognition to perform facial
 12 recognition on him.

13 42. At no time did Plaintiff Rivera receive notice from AWS, whether through
 14 ProctorU or otherwise, that AWS was collecting, storing, and using his biometric data.

15 43. At no time was Plaintiff Rivera asked for, nor at any time did he provide consent
 16 for AWS to collect, store, or use his biometric data.

17 44. Upon information and belief, at no time while possessing Plaintiff Rivera's
 18 biometric data did Amazon maintain a publicly-available retention and deletion schedule for
 19 biometric data. Further, at the time of filing the original complaint, AWS maintained Plaintiff
 20 Rivera's biometric data well after the initial purpose for collecting or maintaining his biometric
 21 data had been satisfied—that is, after his identity had been verified by Amazon Rekognition.

22 **V. Plaintiff Romero's Experience**

23 45. In 2020, Plaintiff Yasmine Romero was a student at College of DuPage, which is
 24 located in Illinois.

25 46. Plaintiff Romero took multiple tests at College of DuPage in 2020, while
 26 physically present in Illinois, each requiring the use of ProctorU's software.

47. During that time, Plaintiff Romero was required to submit her image as well as an image of a valid identification document in order to be identified.

48. Unbeknownst to Romero, ProctorU used Amazon Rekognition to perform facial recognition on her.

49. At no time did Plaintiff Romero receive notice from AWS, whether through ProctorU or otherwise, that AWS was collecting, storing, and using her biometric data.

50. At no time was Plaintiff Romero asked for, nor at any time did she provide consent for AWS to collect, store, or use her biometric data.

51. Upon information and belief, at no time while possessing Plaintiff Romero's biometric data did Amazon maintain a publicly-available retention and deletion schedule for biometric data. Further, on information and belief, AWS maintained Plaintiff Romero's biometric data after the initial purpose for collecting or obtaining her biometric data had been satisfied.

CLASS ALLEGATIONS

52. **Class Definition:** Plaintiffs Avelardo Rivera and Yasmine Romero bring this action on behalf of themselves and a class defined as follows:

All Illinois residents who had their biometric information or biometric identifiers collected, captured, received, possessed, or otherwise obtained by Amazon's Rekognition service and stored in AWS's servers.

The following people are excluded from the Class: (1) any Judge or Magistrate presiding over this action and members of their families; (2) Defendant, Defendant's subsidiaries, parents, successors, predecessors, and any entity in which the Defendant or its parents have a controlling interest and its current or former employees, officers and directors; (3) persons who properly execute and file a timely request for exclusion from the Class; (4) persons whose claims in this matter have been finally adjudicated on the merits or otherwise released; (5) Plaintiffs' counsel and Defendant's counsel; and (6) the legal representatives, successors, and assigns of any such excluded persons.

1 53. **Numerosity:** On information and belief, tens of thousands of consumers fall into
 2 the definition of the Class. Members of the Class can be identified through Defendant's records,
 3 discovery, and other third-party sources.

4 54. **Commonality and Predominance:** There are many questions of law and fact
 5 common to Plaintiffs' and the Class's claims, and those questions predominate over any
 6 questions that may affect individual members of the Class. Common questions for the Class
 7 include, but are not necessarily limited to the following:

- 8 a) whether Defendant collected, captured, or otherwise obtained Plaintiffs' and
 the Class's biometric identifiers or biometric information;
- 9 b) whether Defendant properly informed Plaintiffs and the Class of its purposes
 for collecting, using, and storing their biometric identifiers or biometric
 information;
- 10 c) whether Defendant obtained a written release (as defined in 740 ILCS 14/10)
 to collect, use, and store Plaintiffs' and the Class's biometric identifiers or
 biometric information;
- 11 d) whether Defendant has sold, leased, traded, or otherwise profited from
 Plaintiffs' and the Class's biometric identifiers or biometric information;
- 12 e) whether Defendant used Plaintiffs' and the Class's faceprints or facial
 geometry to identify them; and
- 13 f) whether Defendant's violations of BIPA were committed intentionally,
 recklessly, or negligently.

14 55. **Typicality:** Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the claims of other members of the
 15 Class in that Plaintiffs and the members of the Class sustained damages arising out of
 16 Defendant's wrongful conduct.

17 56. **Adequate Representation:** Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately represent and
 18 protect the interests of the Class and has retained counsel competent and experienced in complex
 19 litigation and class actions. Plaintiffs have no interests antagonistic to those of the Class, and
 20 Defendant has no defenses unique to Plaintiffs. Plaintiffs and their counsel are committed to
 21 vigorously prosecuting this action on behalf of the members of the Class and have the financial
 22

1 resources to do so. Neither Plaintiffs nor their counsel have any interest adverse to those of the
 2 other members of the Class.

3 **57. Policies Generally Applicable to the Class:** This class action is appropriate for
 4 certification because Defendant has acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the
 5 Class as a whole, thereby requiring the Court's imposition of uniform relief to ensure compatible
 6 standards of conduct toward the members of the Class and making final injunctive relief
 7 appropriate with respect to the Class as a whole. Defendant's policies that Plaintiffs challenge
 8 apply and affect members of the Class uniformly, and Plaintiffs' challenge of these policies
 9 hinges on Defendant's conduct with respect to the Class as a whole, not on facts or law
 10 applicable only to Plaintiffs. The factual and legal bases of Defendant's liability to Plaintiffs and
 11 to the other members of the Class are the same.

12 **58. Superiority:** This case is also appropriate for certification because class
 13 proceedings are superior to all other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of
 14 this controversy. The harm suffered by the individual members of the Class is likely to have been
 15 relatively small compared to the burden and expense of prosecuting individual actions to redress
 16 Defendant's wrongful conduct. Absent a class action, it would be difficult if not impossible for
 17 the individual members of the Class to obtain effective relief from Defendant. Even if members
 18 of the Class themselves could sustain such individual litigation, it would not be preferable to a
 19 class action because individual litigation would increase the delay and expense to all parties and
 20 the Court and require duplicative consideration of the legal and factual issues presented. By
 21 contrast, a class action presents far fewer management difficulties and provides the benefits of
 22 single adjudication, economy of scale, and comprehensive supervision by a single Court.
 23 Economies of time, effort, and expense will be fostered and uniformity of decisions will be
 24 ensured.

25 **59.** Plaintiffs reserve the right to revise the "Class Allegations" and "Class
 26 Definition" based on facts learned through additional investigation and in discovery.

27

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION
Violation of 740 ILCS 14/15(a)
(On behalf of Plaintiffs and the Class)

60. Plaintiffs incorporate the foregoing allegations as if fully set forth herein.

61. Section 15(a) of the BIPA requires that any “private entity in possession of biometric identifiers . . . must develop a written policy, made available to the public, establishing a retention schedule and guidelines for permanently destroying biometric identifiers . . . when the initial purpose for collecting or obtaining such identifiers . . . has been satisfied or within 3 years of the individual’s last interaction with the private entity, whichever occurs first.” 740 ILCS 14/15(a).

62. AWS fails to comply with these BIPA mandates.

63. AWS is a corporation and thus qualifies as a “private entity” under the BIPA. See 740 ILCS 14/10.

64. Plaintiffs and the Class are individuals who had their “biometric identifiers” collected by AWS (in the form of their facial scans), as explained in detail in Section III. *See* 740 ILCS 14/10.

65. Plaintiffs' and the Class's biometric identifiers or information based on those biometric identifiers were used to identify them, constituting "biometric information" as defined by BIPA. *See* 740 ILCS 14/10.

66. On information and belief, AWS failed to publicly provide a retention schedule or guideline for permanently destroying Plaintiffs' and the Class's biometric identifiers and biometric information, in violation of 740 ILCS 14/15(a). Further, on information and belief, AWS maintained Plaintiffs' and the Class's biometric data after the initial purpose for collecting or obtaining their biometric data had been satisfied.

67. By collecting, storing, and possessing Plaintiffs' and the Class's biometric identifiers and biometric information as described herein, AWS violated Plaintiffs' and the Class's rights to privacy in their biometric identifiers or biometric information as set forth in BIPA, 740 ILCS 14/1, *et seq.*

68. Accordingly, on behalf of themselves and the Class, Plaintiffs seek: (i) injunctive and equitable relief as is necessary to protect the interests of Plaintiffs and the Class by requiring AWS to establish and make publicly available a policy for the permanent destruction of biometric identifiers compliant with 740 ILCS 14/15(a); (ii) statutory damages of \$5,000 per intentional and/or reckless violation of the BIPA pursuant to 740 ILCS 14/20(2) or, in the alternative, statutory damages of \$1,000 per negligent violation of the BIPA pursuant to 740 ILCS 14/20(1); and (iii) reasonable attorneys' fees and costs and other litigation expenses pursuant to 740 ILCS 14/20(3).

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION
Violation of 740 ILCS 14/15(b)
(On behalf of Plaintiffs and the Class)

69. Plaintiffs incorporate the foregoing allegations as if fully set forth herein.

70. The BIPA requires companies to obtain informed written consent from individuals before acquiring their biometric data. Specifically, BIPA makes it unlawful for any private entity to “collect, capture, purchase, receive through trade, or otherwise obtain a person’s or a customer’s biometric identifiers or biometric information, unless [the entity] first: (1) informs the subject ... in writing that a biometric identifier or biometric information is being collected or stored; (2) informs the subject ... in writing of the specific purpose and length of term for which a biometric identifier or biometric information is being collected, stored, and used; *and* (3) receives a written release executed by the subject of the biometric identifier or biometric information....” 740 ILCS 14/15(b) (emphasis added).

71. Unfortunately, AWS fails to comply with these BIPA mandates.

72. AWS is a corporation and thus qualifies as a “private entity” under the BIPA. See 740 ILCS 14/10.

73. Plaintiffs and the Class are individuals who had their “biometric identifiers” collected by AWS (in the form of their facial scans), as explained in detail in Section III. *See* 740 ILCS 14/10.

74. Plaintiffs' and the Class's biometric identifiers or information based on those biometric identifiers were used to identify them, constituting "biometric information" as defined by BIPA. *See* 740 ILCS 14/10.

75. AWS violated 740 ILCS 14/15(b)(3) by failing to obtain written releases from Plaintiffs and the Class before it collected, used, and stored their biometric identifiers and biometric information.

76. AWS violated 740 ILCS 14/15(b)(1) by failing to inform Plaintiffs and the Class in writing that their biometric identifiers and biometric information were being collected and stored.

77. AWS violated 740 ILCS 14/15(b)(2) by failing to inform Plaintiffs and the Class in writing of the specific purpose and length of term for which their biometric identifiers or biometric information was were being collected, stored, and used.

78. By collecting, storing, and using Plaintiffs' and the Class's biometric identifiers and biometric information as described herein, AWS violated Plaintiffs' and the Class's rights to privacy in their biometric identifiers or biometric information as set forth in BIPA, 740 ILCS 14/1, *et seq.*

79. On behalf of themselves and the Class, Plaintiffs seek: (1) injunctive and equitable relief as is necessary to protect the interests of Plaintiffs and the Class by requiring Defendant to comply with BIPA’s requirements for the collection, storage, and use of biometric identifiers and biometric information as described herein; (2) liquidated damages of \$5,000 for each intentional and/or reckless violation of BIPA pursuant to 740 ILCS 14/20(2) or, in the alternative, liquidated damages of \$1,000 for each negligent violation of BIPA pursuant to 740 ILCS 14/20(1); and (3) reasonable attorneys’ fees, costs, and expenses pursuant to 740 ILCS 14/20(3).

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Plaintiffs Avelardo Rivera and Yasmine Romero, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, respectfully request that this Court enter an Order:

a) Certifying this case as a class action on behalf of the Class defined above, appointing Avelardo Rivera and Yasmine Romero as representatives of the Class, and appointing their counsel as class counsel;

b) Declaring that Defendant's conduct, as set out above, violates the BIPA;

c) Awarding statutory damages of \$5,000 for *each* willful and/or reckless violation A pursuant to 740 ILCS 14/20(2) or, in the alternative, statutory damages of \$1,000 for negligent violation of BIPA pursuant to 740 ILCS 14/20(1);

d) Awarding injunctive and other equitable relief as is necessary to protect the interests of the Class, including an Order requiring Defendant to comply with BIPA;

e) Awarding Plaintiffs and the Class their reasonable litigation expenses and attorneys' fees;

f) Awarding Plaintiffs and the Class pre- and post-judgment interest, to the extent allowable; and

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiffs request a trial by jury of all claims that can be so tried.

Respectfully Submitted,

VELARDO RIVERA and YASMINE ROMERO, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Dated: July 26, 2023

By: /s/ Wright A. Noel

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